SCRAPS OF PAPER:
German Proclamations in Belgium & France

PROCLAMATION
Le Tribunal du Conseil de Guerre Impérial Allem
prononce les condamnations suivantes.
Edith CAVELL, Institutrice à Bruxelles
Philippe BANCQ, Architecte à Bruxelles
Jeanne de BELLEVILLE, de Montignies
Louise THUILIEZ, Professeur à Lille.
Louis SEVERIN, Pharmacien à Bruxelles
Albert LIBIEZ, Avocat à Mons
Le Gouverneur de la
Général VON BISSING.

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SCRAPS OF PAPER

GERMAN PROCLAMATIONS IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE

With a Foreword

by

IAN MALCOLM, M.P.

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FOREWORD.

There are some things which the human imagination cannot fully picture, and the horrors of war are, perhaps fortunately, among them. Even those who have lived through the past two years at the front tell me that they cannot believe all that they have seen; how much less can we at home grasp the grim realities of war and of German invasion, we whose knowledge is perforce drawn only from the reading of books?

The following pages contain reproductions of a series of inhuman documents, the careful perusal of which may do something to supplement our existing information concerning the actual conditions under which hundreds of thousands of our gallant Allies are now living—if "living" be the appropriate word to denote so precarious an existence. Ill-informed persons in this country have been heard to say: "Would it much matter if we *were* under German rule?" I am inclined to think that they would not be disposed to repeat that question if they clearly understood the meaning of some of these threatening and brutal Proclamations.

Such documents require no explanation and no comment. They are reduced photographic facsimiles of posters and placards, pasted by the Germans on the walls of cities, towns and villages in invaded France and Flanders. The originals are in my possession.

Let the reader imagine himself to be studying any one of these, when he suddenly finds it affixed to the door of *his* private house or *his* Church or *his* Town Hall; he may then be able to enter more fully into the feelings of those who, for two long years, have been subject to a reign of terror; and to appreciate the patience, as well as the endurance, with which these people are watching for the return of freedom.

House of Commons,
London, S.W.

IAN MALCOLM.

TO THE BELGIAN PEOPLE.

It is to my very great regret that the German troops find themselves compelled to cross the Belgian frontier. They are acting under the constraint of an unavoidable necessity, Belgium's neutrality having been violated by French officers who, in disguise, crossed Belgian territory by motor-car in order to make their way into Germany.

Belgians!

It is my greatest wish that there may still be a way of avoiding a conflict between two nations which have hitherto been friends, and at one time even Allies.

Remember the glorious days of Waterloo, where German arms played their part in founding and establishing the independence and prosperity of your country. But we must have a free passage. The destruction of bridges, of tunnels, and of railways will have to be looked upon as hostile acts.

Belgians!

It is for you to choose! I hope the German Army of the Meuse will not be forced to fight you. A free passage for attack is all we desire.

I give formal pledges to the Belgian population that it will have nothing to suffer from the horrors of war, that we will pay in gold for the provisions that must be taken from the country, and that our soldiers will prove themselves the best of friends to a people for whom we feel the highest esteem and the greatest sympathy. It rests with your good sense and with an intelligent patriotism to save your country from the horrors of war.

The General Officer Commanding the Army of the Meuse,

VON EMMICH.

THE VIOLATION OF BELGIUM.

This proclamation was distributed by the German Army among the Belgian civil population on August 4th, 1914. This was the day they violated Belgian neutrality, and they still hoped that the Belgian Army would offer no resistance. But when Belgian troops checked their advance that afternoon at the passage of the Meuse, they changed their tone and wreaked their revenge on the Belgian civilians. At Warsage, the village where this proclamation had been scattered by the Uhlans, 3 civilians were shot, 6 hanged, 9 others murdered in various ways, and 25 houses were burnt down.

AU PEUPLE BELGE

C'est à mon plus grand regret que les troupes allemandes se voient forcées de franchir la frontière de Belgique. Elles agissent sous la contrainte d'une nécessité inévitable. La neutralité de la Belgique ayant été violée par des officiers français qui, sous un déguisement, ont traversé le territoire belge en automobile pour pénétrer en Allemagne.

BELGES !

C'est mon plus grand désir qu'il y ait encore moyen d'éviter un combat entre deux peuples qui étaient amis jusqu'à présent, jadis même allies. Souvenez-vous des glorieux jours de Waterloo où c'étaient les armes allemandes qui ont contribué à fonder et à établir l'indépendance et la prospérité de votre Patrie.

Mais il nous faut le chemin libre. Des destructions de ponts, de tunnels, de voies ferrées, devront être regardées comme des actions hostiles.

BELGES !

Vous avez à choisir ! J'espère que l'armée allemande de la Meuse ne sera pas contrainte de vous combattre. Un chemin libre pour attaquer, c'est tout ce que nous désirons.

Je donne des garanties formelles à la population belge qu'elle n'aura rien à souffrir des horreurs de la guerre, que nous payerons en or-monnaie les vivres qu'il faudra prendre au pays, que nos soldats se montreront les meilleurs amis d'un peuple pour lequel nous éprouvons la plus haute estime, la plus grande sympathie.

C'est de votre sagesse et d'un patriotisme bien compris qu'il dépend d'éviter à votre pays les horreurs de la guerre.

Le Général Commandant en Chef l'Armée de la Meuse,

Von EMMICH

ORDER

To the People of Liége.

The population of Andenne, after making a display of peaceful intentions towards our troops, attacked them in the most treacherous manner. With my authorisation, the General commanding these troops has reduced the town to ashes and has had 110 persons shot.

I bring this fact to the knowledge of the people of Liége in order that they may know what fate to expect should they adopt a similar attitude.

Liége, 22nd August, 1914.

GENERAL VON BULOW.

TERRORISATION.

Two hundred and fifty civilians—men, women and children—were killed by the Germans at Andenne on Aug. 20 *and* 21, 1914, *and* 50 *at Seilles on the opposite bank of the Meuse. A hundred and fifty-three houses were burnt at Seilles, and* 37 *at Andenne. It is not true that the Germans were attacked by the civil population, or that they received any provocation whatever. The murder and arson were started in cold blood, at a signal; the object was to give point to such a proclamation as this.*

As a warning to Liége, however, the atrocities at Andenne were superfluous. The Liégeois had already had personal experience of German terrorism, for on that very night of Aug. 20, *again at a given signal, the Germans had burnt* 35 *houses at Liége and murdered* 29 *civilians—shooting some, bayoneting others, and burning others alive.*

ORDRE

A LA POPULATION LIÉGEOISE

La population d'Andenne, après avoir témoigné des intentions pacifiques à l'égard de nos troupes, les a attaquées de la façon la plus traîtresse. Avec mon autorisation, le général qui commandait ces troupes a mis la ville en cendres et a fait fusiller 110 personnes.

Je porte ce fait à la connaissance de la Ville de Liége pour que ses habitants sachent à quel sort ils peuvent s'attendre s'ils prennent une attitude semblable.

Liége, le 22 Août 1914.

Général von BULOW.

NOTICE TO THE MAYOR.

Requisition Order.

The Commune of Lunéville will furnish by 1st September 1914, under penalty of a fine of 300,000 francs in case of refusal or opposition :—

1. 100,000 cigars, or 200,000 cigarettes, or 5,000 kilos of tobacco.
2. 50,000 litres of wine (in cask or in bottle).
3. 1,000 kilos of tea or of cocoa.
4. 10,000 kilos of sugar.
5. 1,000 kilos of roasted coffee.
6. 1,000 woollen stockings.
7. A quantity of soap, of toilet paper or cut paper, and a great number of pocket handkerchiefs and of knives.
8. 10 kilos of glycerine.
9. 10 kilos of grease.

I expressly add that all the goods demanded must be of the best quality, and that, in all cases where they are not so, the Commune will be held responsible. All appeals against this order will be null and void.

Crion, 29th August, 1914.

Officer Commanding the 1st Bavarian Reserve Corps,

VON FASBENDER.

REQUISITIONS.

The best commentary on this proclamation is the Hague Convention of 1907, *Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land. The following articles may be singled out for quotation :—*

> "52. *Requisitions in kind and services shall not be demanded from the local authorities or inhabitants, except for the needs of the army of occupation. They shall be in proportion to the resources of the country . . .*
>
> "53. *An army of occupation shall only take possession of cash, funds, and realisable securities which are strictly the property of the State . . .*"

*At Lunéville the Germans blew up with dynamite the walls of private houses into which safes had been let. They were directed by a non-commissioned officer who had done business in Lunéville before the war, and knew which safes were worth blasting out.**

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* Report of the French Commission on German Atrocities, I. (pp. 25–6, French original ; 21–2 English translation).

AVIS AU MAIRE

Ordre de Réquisition

La Commune de Lunéville fournira jusqu'au 1er Septembre 1914, sous peine d'amende de 300,000 fr. en cas de refus ou d'opposition :

1° 100,000 cigares, ou 200,000 cigarettes, ou 5,000 kilos de tabac ;
2° 50,000 litres de vin (en tonneaux ou en bouteilles) ;
3° 1,000 kilos de thé ou de cacao ;
4° 10,000 kilos de sucre ;
5° 1,000 kilos de café torrifié ;
6° 1,000 bas de laine ;
7° Une quantité de savon, de papier de toilette ou de papier coupé, un grand nombre de mouchoirs et de couteaux ;
8° 10 kilos de glycérine ;
9° 10 kilos de graisse.

J'ajoute expressément que tous les objets à livrer doivent être de première qualité et que dans tous les cas contraires la Commune en serait rendue responsable.

Toute réclamation passe pour nulle et non arrivée.

Crion, le 29 Août 1914.

Le Commandant en Chef du 1er Corps bavarois d'armée de réserve :

Von FASBENDER.

Imprimerie de Lunéville, 47, rue Gambetta

NOTICE TO THE POPULATION.

On the 25th of August, 1914, inhabitants of Lunéville made an attack by ambush on German columns and ammunition-trains. On the same day inhabitants also fired on ambulances bearing the Red Cross. Shots were also fired on German wounded and on a military hospital containing a German ambulance unit.

On account of these acts of hostility an indemnity of 650,000 francs is imposed on the Commune of Lunéville. The Mayor is ordered to pay over this sum on the 6th September, 1914, at 9 o'clock in the morning, to the representative of the German military authorities. Fifty thousand francs of the payment must be made in specie. All appeals will be considered null and void. No postponement will be granted.

If the Commune does not punctually execute the order to pay this sum of 650,000 francs, all goods that can be distrained upon will be seized.

In case of non-payment, house-to-house visits will be made and all the inhabitants will be searched. Any person who has deliberately concealed money or tried to withhold goods from seizure by the military authorities, or who attempts to leave the town, will be shot.

The Mayor and the hostages taken by the Military Authorities will be made responsible for the exact execution of the above orders. The Mayor is ordered to publish these directions to the Commune immediately.

Hénaménil, 3rd September, 1914.

General Commanding,
VON FASBENDER.

PUNISHMENT TO PROVE CRIME.

The motive of the present proclamation is found in the German military maxim that "Punishment is a proof of crime." The heinous charges made, in the first paragraph, against the inhabitants of Lunéville are just as false as those trumped up against the Belgian civilians of Andenne and Liége a few days earlier. The truth in all these cases was that the Germans had committed atrocities in cold blood, on a given signal for a deliberate purpose of terrorisation. At Lunéville there were 18 *victims (including a boy of* 12 *shot and a woman of* 98 *bayoneted), and* 70 *houses were burnt. Such incidents require explanation, and the Germans, true to their policy of the offensive, hoped to fix the guilt on their victims before it could be brought home to themselves.*

AVIS à la POPULATION

Le 25 Août 1914, des habitants de Lunéville ont fait une attaque par embuscade contre des colonnes et trains allemands. Le même jour des habitants ont tiré sur des formations sanitaires marquées par la Croix Rouge. De plus on a tiré sur des blessés allemands et sur l'hôpital militaire contenant une ambulance allemande.

A cause de ces actes d'hostilité, une contribution de 650,000 fr. est imposée à la commune de Lunéville. Ordre est donné à M. le Maire de verser cette somme, en or et en argent jusqu'à 50,000 fr., le 6 Septembre 1914, à 9 heures du matin, entre les mains du représentant de l'autorité militaire allemande. Toute réclamation sera considérée comme nulle et non arrivée. On n'accordera pas de délai.

Si la Commune n'éxécute pas ponctuellement l'ordre de payer la somme de 650,000 fr., on saisira tous les biens exigibles.

En cas de non paiement, des perquisitions domiciliaires auront lieu et tous les habitants seront fouillés. Quiconque aura dissimulé sciemment de l'argent ou essayé de soustraire des biens à la saisie de l'autorité militaire, ou qui cherche à quitter la Ville, sera fusillé.

Le Maire et les otages, pris par l'autorité militaire, seront rendus responsables d'exécuter exactement les ordres sus-indiqués.

Ordre est donné à M. le Maire de publier tout de suite ces dispositions à la Commune.

Hénaménil, le 3 Septembre 1914.

Le Général en Chef,

Von FASBENDER.

Imprimerie de Lunéville, 47, rue Gambetta

PROCLAMATION.

Inhabitants of both sexes are strictly forbidden to leave their houses so far as this is not absolutely necessary for making short rounds, in order to buy provisions or water their cattle. They are absolutely forbidden to leave their houses at night under any circumstances whatever.

Whoever attempts to leave the place, by night or day, upon any pretext whatever, will be shot.

Potatoes can only be dug with the Commandant's consent and under military supervision.

The German troops have orders to carry out these directions strictly, by sentinels and patrols, who are authorised to fire on anyone departing from these directions.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING.

THE STRONG HAND.

This proclamation imposes restrictions upon the people of Lunéville which barely allow them to keep themselves alive, while the penalty for infraction is death by shooting, at the discretion of the German sentinels and patrols.

These restrictions are the German General Staff's ideal of the state to which conquered peoples should be reduced. The process of terrorisation is carried out in two stages. First comes the crushing blow—the carefully planned outbreak of murder, rape, arson and pillage, similar to that which was contrived at Lunéville on August 25th, 1914. Then, when the victims are presumed to be sufficiently paralysed in action and broken in spirit, they are bound down with a network of drastic regulations to prevent their recuperation.

At Lunéville, fortunately, the process was cut short. The Germans only occupied the town three weeks, and were driven out by the French Army on September 11th.

LOUNGE

PROCLAMATION

Il est strictement défendu aux habitants de tout sexe de quitter leurs maisons tant que cela n'est pas absolument nécessaire pour faire de petites courses, afin d'acheter des vivres ou abreuver le bétail. De nuit il est absolument défendu de quitter les maisons dans toutes les circonstances.

Quiconque essaie de quitter la localité, de nuit ou de jour, sous quelque prétexte que ce soit, sera fusillé.

Arracher les pommes de terre ne peut se faire qu'au consentement du Commandant et à la surveillance militaire.

Les troupes allemandes ont l'ordre d'exécuter strictement ces dispositions, par des sentinelles et des patrouilles, qui sont autorisées à tirer sur quiconque manque à cette disposition.

Le Général Commandant en Chef.

Imprimerie de Lunéville, 47, rue Gambetta.

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NOT TO BE REMOVED.

GERMAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

The Mayor of the town of Lunéville officially requests the inhabitants, under the sanction of the most severe penalties, to abstain from making any signals to aeroplanes or other details of the French Army.

It would be very imprudent, even out of simple curiosity, to follow too attentively the manœuvres of the aircraft that fly over Lunéville, or to try to communicate with the French outposts.

The immediate steps to enforce this, which would be taken by Colonel Lidl, Commandant of the Communications Depôt, would consist in the seizure of *a considerable number of hostages from the working class as well as from the middle-class.*

In order to prevent or repress criminal behaviour in war time, as well as to ensure the security of the German troops and the civil population, the special Police Stations flying a white flag are to receive day and night all communications which may be addressed to them on this subject.

The Mayor of Lunéville,
KELLER.

HOSTAGES.

In the present proclamation the Mayor of Lunéville is made to warn his fellow-citizens against rendering any assistance to their own national forces. The threat to take hostages in case of disobedience is very properly underlined. To be seized as a hostage in the invaded districts of Belgium and France was almost equivalent to a sentence of death. Hostages who were not shot by their captors or driven under the fire of their fellow-countrymen as living screens, were often deported to prison-camps in Germany for an indefinite period and exposed to a more lingering death by exposure, starvation, and brutality.

Défense d'Arracher

Autorité Militaire Allemande

Le Maire de la Ville de Lunéville invite formellement les habitants, sous les peines les plus sévères, a s'abstenir de tous signaux aux aéroplanes ou représentants quelconques des armées françaises.

Il serait très imprudent, même par simple curiosité, de suivre avec trop d'attention les évolutions des appareils qui survolent Lunéville, de chercher à communiquer avec les avants-postes français.

Les sanctions immédiates consisteraient, de la part de M. le colonel Lidl, commandant d'étape, à s'assurer d'un nombre considérable d'otages, aussi bien dans la classe ouvrière que dans la bourgeoisie.

Autant pour empêcher ou réprimer des manœuvres criminelles en temps de guerre que pour assurer la sécurité des troupes allemandes et de la population civile.

Les postes spéciaux de police, munis d'un drapeau blanc, doivent recevoir jour et nuit, les communications qui leur seraient faites à ce sujet.

Le Maire de Lunéville,

KELLER.

Imprimerie de Lunéville, 47, rue Gambetta

PROCLAMATION TO THE INHABITANTS OF SAINT DIÉ.

The Government of the French Republic has sent its troops over the German frontier to come to the help of Russia.

I know well how unpopular this war is in France and how it has been forced upon you by your Government against the considered will of the country.

It is now for arms to decide.

European civilisation as defended by Germany and Austria against the Serbs and the Russians, who are protectors of political murder, and the well-known German discipline are the guarantees that our arms will only be directed against the military forces. All non-combatants may be sure that they will not suffer interference either with their persons or their property so long as they remain quiet.

The German Armies have made their entry into France.

Although we will respect the liberty of non-combatants, we have at the same time decided to repress with the greatest energy and without mercy any act of hostility committed against German troops.

The following will be immediately shot:—

All persons guilty of any act of hostility against a member of the German Army;

All the inhabitants and proprietors of houses in which Frenchmen belonging to the Army, or persons firing on our troops, may be found, unless these facts, or the presence of suspected persons, have been announced to the local Command immediately after the entry of our troops;

Any persons who try to help or who have helped the enemy's forces, or who try to harm or have harmed our Armies in any way whatever, especially by cutting the telephone and telegraph wires;

Anyone who tears down these notices.

The following will be held responsible for acts of hostility by the population:— *The Curé, the Mayor, the Mayor's Assessor, and the Schoolmasters.*

All buildings will be burnt in which or from which acts of hostility have been committed. In case of repetition the whole town will be destroyed and burnt. Besides which, it is ordered that:—

(1) All arms (guns, pistols, revolvers, brownings, sabres, etc.) are to be deposited with the local Command from the moment of entry of our troops.
(2) All traffic in the streets is forbidden between 8 in the evening and 6 in the morning. The sentinels will fire without challenging on every individual disobeying this order.
(3) All gatherings of more than 3 persons are forbidden.
(4) It is forbidden to ring the bells or communicate with the enemy by any means whatever.
(5) The Curé, the Mayor, the Mayor's Assessor and the Schoolmasters are to present themselves immediately after the entry of our troops before the local Command, which reserves to itself the right to retain them as hostages for the execution of the above stipulations in regard to them.
(6) It is forbidden to approach on any pretext the sick, wounded or dead belonging to our Armies, or the prisoners of war who are under the protection of our Armies.
(7) All persons infringing the above rules or committing any reprehensible act against our authorities or any of their representatives will be punished according to German martial law.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING.

Saint Dié, 27*th August*, 1914. KNOERZER.

HOW TO TERRORISE A TOWN.

This proclamation posted at St. Dié (Vosges) is a very complete example of German style in this vein of literature.

First a self-glorificatory version of the origin of the War; second, a misleading promise of security to the civil population, like the proclamation at Warsage—the voice of the wolf addressing the lamb; third, the threat of wholesale fire and slaughter breathed out against this same civil population if the German Army is in any way incommoded by anybody in its conduct of war—the commune and the communal authorities to pay a collective penalty of the last severity for any alleged infringement of the proclamation by an individual; and, last, a network of minute regulations and restrictions to perpetuate the effect of the sweeping threats that precede. In their conception of their victims' psychology the Germans betray their own.

PROCLAMATION

AUX HABITANTS DE SAINT-DIÉ

Le gouvernement de la République française a fait passer ses troupes la frontière allemande pour venir en aide à la Russie.

Je sais combien cette guerre est peu populaire en France, qui vous a été octroyée par votre Gouvernement contre la volonté bien déterminée du pays.

La parole est maintenant aux armes.

La civilisation européenne défendue par l'Allemagne et l'Autriche contre les Serbes et les Russes, protecteurs de l'assassinat politique, et la discipline allemande bien connues, sont la garantie que l'action armée ne se dirigera que contre les forces militaires.

Tous les non-combattants peuvent être sûrs qu'ils ne seront pas inquiétés ni dans leur personne, ni dans leur fortune tant qu'ils resteront tranquilles.

Les Armées allemandes ont fait leur entrée en France.

Si bien que nous respecterons la liberté des non-combattants, si bien nous sommes décidés à réprimer avec la dernière énergie et sans pardon tout acte d'hostilité commis contre les troupes allemandes.

Seront immédiatement fusillés :

Toute personne se rendant coupable d'un acte d'hostilité contre un membre de l'armée allemande ;

Tous les habitants et les propriétaires des maisons dans lesquelles se trouveront des Français faisant partie de l'armée française, ou des personnes tirant sur nos troupes, sans que ces faits ou la présence des personnes suspectes aient été annoncées à la Commandanture de la place, immédiatement à l'entrée de nos troupes ;

Toute personne qui cherche à aider ou qui a aidé la force armée ennemie, ou qui cherche à nuire ou qui a nui à nos armées d'une façon quelconque surtout en coupant les fils télégraphiques ou téléphoniques ;

Toute personne qui arrachera ces affiches.

Seront tenus responsables :

M. le Curé, le Maire, l'Adjoint du Maire et les Instituteurs pour des actes d'hostilité de la population.

Seront brûlés :

Les bâtiments d'où seront sortis les actes d'hostilité.

Dans des cas répétés, la ville entière sera détruite et brûlée.

En outre est ordonné :

1° Toutes les armes (fusils, pistolets, revolvers, brownings, sabres, etc.), devront être remises immédiatement à la commandanture de la place dès l'entrée de nos troupes.

2° La circulation dans la ville est défendue entre huit heures du soir jusqu'à six heures du matin ; les sentinelles vont tirer sans appel sur tous les individus faisant infraction à cet ordre.

3° Tout rassemblement de plus de trois personnes est défendu.

4° Est défendu le son des cloches ou de communiquer avec l'ennemi par des moyens quelconques.

5° M. le Curé, le Maire, le Maire-Adjoint et les Instituteurs auront à se présenter immédiatement après l'entrée de nos troupes à la commandanture de la place qui me réserve le droit de les retenir comme otages pour l'exécution de ce qui est dit ci-dessus à leur égard.

6° Est défendu de s'approcher quoi que ce soit des malades, blessés ou morts de nos armées, ou des prisonniers de guerre se trouvant sous la protection de nos armées.

7° Seront punis, d'après les lois de guerre allemandes, toute personne faisant infraction à ce qui est ordonné ci-dessus ou qui commet contre nos autorités ou leurs membres des actes répréhensibles.

Saint-Dié, le 27 Août 1914.

Le Général Commandant en Chef :

KNŒRZER.

NOTICE.

The numerous acts of hostility committed by the inhabitants of this country against the German troops force me to give the following orders :—

(1) Any inhabitant who shall be guilty of an act of hostility against a member of the German Army, or any inhabitant of a house from which our troops are fired upon, will immediately be shot, and the house of the guilty person will instantly be burnt.

(2) All arms (rifles, pistols, sabres, &c.) must be deposited by 4 o'clock at the Town Hall. Whoever retains arms or hides in his house any members of the French Army will be punished according to the laws of war.

(3) All traffic in the streets is forbidden during the night from 8 o'clock in the evening to 7 o'clock in the morning. The sentinels have orders to fire without challenging them on all persons who do not obey these orders.

(4) All gatherings in the streets are forbidden.

(5) It is further forbidden to ring the bells, or to communicate with the enemy, by means of optical signals, lanterns or other methods of conveying intelligence. In case of disobedience the offenders will be punished by death. The same penalty will be inflicted on those who destroy any means of communication.

It is likewise forbidden to leave the town under any pretext whatever without being exposed to the same penalties as are mentioned above.

Saint-Dié, 28*th August* 1914.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING.

TWO KINDS OF GERMAN OFFICER.

In this proclamation the German Commandant sees fit to repeat his warnings and prohibitions of the day before.

A comparison of the two proclamations reveals a deterioration in the Commandant's nerves in the course of the intervening night. The civil population of Belgium, France and Poland has paid a heavy price for the German Army's nervousness. A criminal is never more dangerous than when he is afraid.

But there was another German officer at St Dié who had a cooler head. When the French and German troops were fighting from house to house for the possession of the town, this German officer placed three civilians on chairs in the street, to screen his men from the French troops' fire. He claims that this "brilliant idea" was responsible for the German conquest of St. Dié. "The civilians were killed by French bullets . . . One becomes terribly callous at this business. . . ." *

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* *Letter from this Officer, Lieutenant Eberlein, published in the* Münchener Neueste Nachrichten (Vorabendblatt), *7th October*, 1914.

AVIS

Les nombreux actes d'hostilité commis par les habitants de ce pays contre les troupes allemandes me forcent d'ordonner ce qui suit :

1° Tout habitant qui se rendra coupable d'un acte d'hostilité contre un membre de l'armée allemande, ou de la maison duquel on tirera sur nos troupes, sera immédiatement fusillé et la maison du coupable sera brûlée à l'instant.

2° Toutes les armes (fusils, pistolets, sabres, etc.) devront jusqu'à 4 heures être remises à la Mairie. Quiconque retient des armes ou cache chez lui des membres de l'armée francaise sera puni d'après les lois de la guerre.

3° Pendant la nuit, de 8 heures du soir jusqu'à 7 heures du matin, il sera défendu de circuler dans les rues. Les sentinelles ont l'ordre de tirer sans appel sur les individus qui n'obéissent pas à ces ordres.

4° Tout rassemblement dans les rues est interdit.

5° En outre il sera défendu de sonner les cloches ou de communiquer avec l'ennemi à l'aide de signaux optiques, fanaux ou autres moyens de renseignement. En cas de non-obéissance, les coupables seront punis de mort. Il en sera de même de ceux qui détruisent des moyens de communication.

Il est également interdit de quitter la Ville sous aucun prétexte, sans s'exposer aux mêmes peines que ci-dessus.

Saint-Dié, le 28 Août 1914.

LE GÉNÉRAL COMMANDANT EN CHEF.

Saint-Dié - Imp. G. Cuny. - G. Fenal, suc.

PROCLAMATION.

All functionaries of the French Government and of the Municipality are informed as follows:—

(1) All peaceable inhabitants will be able to follow their regular occupations in complete security without interference. Private property will be absolutely respected by the German troops. Supplies of all kinds serving the requirements of the German troops, especially provisions, will be paid for in cash.

(2) If, on the contrary, the population should dare to take part in any way whatever, openly or secretly, in hostilities against our troops, the most severe punishments will be inflicted on the guilty.

All firearms are to be deposited immediately at the Town Hall. Any individual found in arms will be put to death. Any person cutting or attempting to cut telegraph or telephone wires, destroying railway lines, bridges or high roads, or committing any action detrimental to the German troops, will be shot summarily.

Any towns or villages, the inhabitants of which may take part in the fighting against our troops, fire at our baggage or at our supply columns, or lay an ambush for German soldiers, will be set on fire and the guilty persons immediately shot.

The Civil Authorities alone are in a position to save the inhabitants from the terrors and scourges of war.

It is they who will be responsible for the unavoidable consequences of disregarding this Proclamation.

Epernay, 4th September 1914.

Chief of the General Staff of the German Army,

VON MOLTKE.

CHIEF OF STAFF VON MOLTKE AND SUPERINTENDENT KAHN.

This proclamation contains the same promises, prohibitions and threats as those which precede. Its interest lies in the signature of General von Moltke, at that time Chief of the German General Staff, and therefore supreme executive head of the German Military Forces.

In spite of his exalted rank, General von Moltke failed to bring his subordinates' action into conformity with his own laudable intentions, as a comparison between this proclamation and the following will show.

On Sept. 4th, 1914, *the General assured the people of Epernay that "private property will be respected by the German troops, and that supplies of all kinds serving the requirements of the German Army, especially provisions, will be paid for in cash." But for the sequel see the next page.*

PROCLAMATION

Toutes les autorités du Gouvernement français et de la Municipalité sont informées de ce qui suit :

1° Tout habitant paisible pourra suivre son occupation régulière en pleine sécurité sans être dérangé. La propriété privée sera absolument respectée par les troupes allemandes. Les provisions de toute sorte servant aux besoins de l'armée allemande, surtout les vivres, seront payées au comptant.

2° Si au contraire la population oserait sous une forme quelconque, soit ouverte ou cachée, de prendre part aux hostilités contre nos troupes, les punitions les plus sévères seront infligées aux réfractaires.

Toutes les armes à feu devront être déposées immédiatement à la Mairie. Tout individu trouvé l'arme à la main sera mis à mort.

Quiconque coupera ou tentera à couper les fils télégraphiques ou téléphoniques, détruira les voies ferrées, les ponts, les grandes routes, ou qui commettra une action quelconque au détriment des troupes allemandes, sera fusillé sur-le-champ.

Les villes ou villages dont les habitants prendraient part au combat contre nos troupes, feraient feu sur nos bagages et colonnes de ravitaillement, mettraient une embuscade aux soldats allemands seront incendiés, les coupables fusillés immédiatement.

Seules, les Autorités civiles sont en état d'épargner aux habitants les terreurs et les fléaux de la guerre. Ce seront elles qui seront responsables des conséquences inévitables résultant de toute réfraction à la présente proclamation.

Epernay, 4 Septembre 1914. Le Chef d'Etat-Major Général de l'armée allemande,

Von MOLTKE

Epernay — Imprimerie Boer Villers.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ÉPERNAY.

Official Report of the Extraordinary Session of Saturday, the 5th September, 1914.

In the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, on Saturday, the 5th of September, at a quarter-past nine o'clock in the evening,

The Municipal Council of the Town of Epernay, duly summoned, met at the Town Hall, under the Presidency of M. Maurice Pol-Roger, the Mayor, for the holding of an extraordinary session necessitated by a requisition made by the German Commissariat.

There were present:—

MM. 1. Maurice Pol-Roger; 2. Eugène Jacquet, First Assessor; 3. Perrault, Assessor; 4. Gallice; 5. Cerveaux; 6. Fleuricourt; 7. Lemaître; 8. Villiot; 9. Brunette; 10. Michelot; 11. Edouard Boizel; 12. Gaullier; 13. Granier; 14. Waline; 15. Machet; 16. Doctor Chapt.

Absent:—

MM. 1. J. Chandon; 2. Chaurey; 3. Dépuiset, serving. MM. Geoffroy and Raulet, excused attendance. MM. 1. Moineau; 2. Bource; 3. Ch. Dubois.

Summoned to this meeting and present:—

MM. Ernest Goubault, Edmo Goubault, Claude Chandon.

The Mayor communicated the following document:—

"Epernay, the 5th September, 1914.

"At the request of the Mayor, we certify that the Commissariat of the Royal Bodyguard has imposed a fine (according to convention) on the town of Epernay amounting to 176,550 francs, payable on the 6th of September, at noon, for not having delivered in time the provisions necessary for the troops.

"In the name of the Commissariat of the Royal Guard,

"(Signed) KAHN, Director."

The President read the details of the provisions demanded:—

"For the 5th of September, 1914:—

"Oats - - - -	120,000	kilogrammes.
"Bread - - - -	21,000	"
"Roasted Coffee - - -	500	"
"Preserved Vegetables, Mushrooms and Semolina - - -	10,000	"
"Salted Bacon, Lard, &c. - -	12,000	" "

He then pointed out that only the required quantity of salted bacon could not be supplied; there were only about 2,000 kilogrammes available; and that, in spite of all his endeavours, he had not been able to obtain either the items of the sum claimed or any reduction in the amount of the fine.

In default of payment of this sum, the German authorities threatened to take the most rigorous proceedings against the population itself, and to conduct forcible perquisitions in the houses of the inhabitants.

A long discussion arose on this subject.

Finally, being unable to resist the demands of the German Commissariat, and on account of the threats made, the Council decided that to-morrow morning an appeal should be made for the co-operation of the people of this town to collect this sum of 176,550 francs. The session closed at 11.30 in the evening.

(Signed) MACHET, BRUNETTE.

N.B.—Payment has been deferred to 5.30 p.m. instead of noon.

He was evidently unaware that one Kahn, Superintendent of the Commissariat of the Prussian Guard, was at that moment demanding a quantity of salt bacon from the town, which the town was utterly unable to furnish, and imposing a monetary fine of 176,550 *francs for the default in the amount produced, under the threat of "taking the most rigorous proceedings against the population itself, and "conducting forcible perquisitions in the houses of the inhabitants."*

CONSEIL MUNICIPAL
D'ÉPERNAY

COMPTE RENDU OFFICIEL

DE LA

Séance extraordinaire du Samedi 5 Septembre 1914

L'An mil neuf cent quatorze.

Le Samedi 5 Septembre, à neuf heures un quart du soir,

Le Conseil municipal de la Ville d'Epernay, dûment convoqué, s'est réuni à l'Hôtel de Ville sous la présidence de M. Maurice Pol-Roger, Maire, pour la tenue d'une séance extraordinaire nécessitée par une réquisition de l'Intendance allemande.

Etaient présents :

MM. : 1. Maurice Pol-Roger ; 2. Eugène Jacquet, Premier Adjoint ; 3. Perrault, Adjoint ; 4. Gallice ; 5. Cerveaux ; 6. Fleuricourt ; 7. Lemaitre ; 8. Villiot ; 9. Brunette ; 10 Michelot ; 11. Ed. Boizel ; 12. Gaullier ; 13. Granier ; 14. Waline ; 15. Machet ; 16. Docteur Chapt.

Etaient absents :

MM. : 1. J. Chandon ; 2. Chaurey ; 3. Dépuiset, — sous les drapeaux ; MM. Geoffroy et Raulet, excusés.

MM. : 1. Moineau ; 2. Bource ; 3. Ch. Dubois.

Avaient été convoqués à cette séance et étaient présents :

MM. Ernest Goubault, Edmond Goubault, Claude Chandon.

M. le Maire donne connaissance du document suivant :

Epernay le 5 Septembre 1914.

Sur la demande de M. le Maire, nous certifions que l'Intendance du Corps de la Garde royale a imposé à la Ville d'Epernay une amende conventionnelle s'élevant à la somme de :

176,550 francs

payable le 6 Septembre à midi, pour n'avoir pas livré à temps les vivres nécessaires à la troupe.

Au nom de l'Intendance de la Garde royale,

Signé : KAHN, Directeur.

M. le Président lit le détail des vivres qui étaient réclamés ;

Journée du 5 Septembre 1914

Avoine	120.000 kil.
Pain	21.000 kil.
Café grillé.....	500 kil.
Conserves de légumes, ceps et semoules.....	10.000 kil.
Lard salé, saindoux, etc.....	12.000 kil.

Il signale ensuite que, seule, la quantité de lard salé n'a pu être fournie ; on n'en a trouvé qu'environ 2,000 kilos.

Et que, malgré ses instances, il n'a pu obtenir ni le détail de la somme réclamée, ni une diminution du montant de l'amende.

A défaut de paiement de cette somme, les Autorités allemandes menacent de prendre les plus dures sanctions contre la population elle-même et de perquisitionner de force dans les maisons des habitants.

Une longue discussion s'élève à ce sujet.

Finalement, les exigences de l'Intendance allemande ne pouvant être éludées, et en raison des menaces formulées, le Conseil décide qu'il sera fait dès demain matin un appel au concours de diverses personnes de cette Ville pour réunir cette somme de 176,550 fr. (1)

La séance est levée à onze heures et demie du soir.

Signé : MACHET, BRUNETTE.

(1) NOTA. — Le paiement a été remis à cinq heures du soir au lieu de midi.

Epernay. — Imprimerie Henri Villers.

NOTICE TO THE POPULATION.

In order sufficiently to ensure the safety of our troops and the tranquillity of the population of Rheims, the persons mentioned have been seized as hostages by the Commander of the German Army. These hostages will be shot if there is the least disorder. On the other hand, if the town remains perfectly calm and quiet, these hostages and inhabitants will be placed under the protection of the German Army.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING.

Rheims, 12*th September*, 1914.

"TO ENSURE THE TRANQUILLITY OF THE POPULATION OF RHEIMS."

What is the meaning of "the least disorder"? By the terms of the proclamation the interpretation of these words was to mean life or death to the hostages whose names (80 *in number, with a note that others had been taken as well*) *were published on another poster pasted up beneath. The phrase can hardly have inspired tranquillity in the hostages themselves; it had too formidable an elasticity. At Aerschot, on August* 19*th, a German soldier had fired in the air; at Dinant, on August* 23*rd, French soldiers had fired at German soldiers in open warfare; at Louvain, on August* 25*th, German soldiers had fired on one another; and in each case the "disorder" had been punished by the massacre of the civil population. For the hostages at Rheims these were not tranquillising precedents.*

AVIS A LA POPULATION

Afin d'assurer suffisamment la sécurité de nos troupes et le calme de la population de Reims, les personnes nommées ont été saisies comme otages par le Commandant de l'Armée Allemande. Ces otages seront fusillés au moindre **désordre.** D'autre part, si la ville se tient absolument calme et tranquille, ces ôtages et habitants seront placés sous la protection de l'Armée Allemande.

Le Général Commandant en Chef.

Reims, le 12 Septembre 1914

NOTICE.

The persons mentioned below were condemned by the Tribunal of the Council of War and shot this same day at the Citadel, namely :—

Eugène Jacquet	- - -	Wholesale Wine Merchant,
Ernest Deconinck	- - -	Sub-Lieut.,
Georges Maertens	- - -	Tradesman,
Sylvère Verhulst	- - -	Workman,

(1) For having concealed the English aviator who alighted at Wattignies on the 11th of last March—for having given him shelter and facilitated his passage to France, so that he was able to return to the enemy's lines

(2) For having maintained and assisted members of the enemy army who, after discarding their uniform, remained in Lille and its suburbs, and having enabled them to escape into France.

By the Proclamation of the Governor, of the 7th April 1915, these two cases, being considered as espionage, are brought to the knowledge of the public in order that they may serve as a warning.

Lille, 22nd September 1915.

THE GOVERNOR.

"CONSIDERED AS ESPIONAGE."

Espionage is punishable with death—that is a commonly acknowledged rule of military law. But there are other services which the civil population of an occupied territory may perform—and be impelled by all the claims of patriotism and humanity to perform—for their allies and fellow-countrymen under arms, which are absolutely distinct from espionage, of infinitely less danger to the occupying power, and undeserving of the death-penalty by all the traditions of civilised warfare.

The Germans wished to punish these acts of service with the extreme penalty. They therefore "considered them as espionage," shot four patriotic citizens of Lille who had been guilty of performing them, and posted this proclamation in order to leave no one in doubt that they intended to repeat this action at the next opportunity.

AVIS

Les personnes mentionnées ci-dessous ont été condamnées par le Tribunal du Conseil de Guerre et fusillées ce même jour à la Citadelle, à savoir :

Le Marchand de Vins en Gros	Eugène JACQUET
Le Sous-Lieutenant	Ernest DECONINCK
Le Commerçant	Georges MAERTENS
L'Ouvrier	Sylvère VERHULST

1° Pour avoir caché l'aviateur anglais qui a atterri à Wattignies, le 11 Mars dernier, l'avoir hébergé et lui avoir facilité son passage en France, de sorte qu'il a pu rejoindre les lignes ennemies ;

2° Pour avoir entretenu et aidé des Membres des Armées ennemies et, après avoir quitté leur uniforme, séjourné dans Lille et les environs et les avoir fait évader en France.

Par proclamation du Gouverneur, du 7 Avril 1915, ces deux cas étant considérés comme espionnage, sont portés à la connaissance du public pour qu'ils servent d'avertissement.

LE GOUVERNEUR

Lille, le 22 Septembre 1915.

PROCLAMATION.

In future the inhabitants of places situated near railways and telegraph lines which have been destroyed will be punished without mercy (whether they are guilty of this destruction or not). For this purpose, hostages have been taken in all places in the vicinity of railways in danger of similar attacks; and at the first attempt to destroy any railway, telegraph, or telephone line, they will be shot immediately.

Brussels, 5th October, 1914.

The Governor,
VON DER GOLTZ.

"THE INNOCENT SHALL SUFFER."

In this proclamation the German Governor-General of Belgium announces that he will shoot Belgian civilians "without mercy" if certain acts are committed, "whether they are guilty of those acts or not." This announcement would have been still more startling if he had added that no guilt attached to these acts at all, and that they were done by the Belgian Army as legitimate acts of war.

From August 19th, 1914, when the Belgian Army retired within the lines of Antwerp, to October 9th, when Antwerp fell, it carried on the war by making sorties through the German lines and by sending out patrols, many miles behind them, to cut the German communications. This warfare was as effective as it was legitimate, and it was its effectiveness that made the German authorities shrink from no means of bringing it to a stop.

The means announced in this proclamation are characteristic. Innocent civilians were to suffer—not for guilty civilians, for there were none—but for their compatriots in the Belgian Army whom the Germans could not cope with by other tactics than these.

LOUNGE

PROCLAMATION

A l'avenir les localités situées près de l'endroit où a eu lieu la destruction des chemins de fer et lignes télégraphiques seront punies sans pitié (il n'importe qu'elles soient coupables ou non de ces actes.) Dans ce but des otages ont été pris dans toutes les localités situées près des chemins de fer qui sont menacés de pareilles attaques; et au premier attentat à la destruction des lignes de chemins de fer, de lignes télégraphiques ou lignes téléphoniques, ils seront immédiatement fusillés.

Bruxelles, le 5 Octobre 1914

Le Gouverneur,

VON DER GOLTZ

PROCLAMATION.

The Tribunal of the Imperial German Council of War sitting in Brussels has pronounced the following sentences:—

Condemned to Death for conspiring together to commit Treason:—

Edith Cavell, Teacher, of Brussels.
Philippe Bancq, Architect, of Brussels.
Jeanne de Belleville, of Montignies.
Louise Thuiliez, Professor at Lille.
Louis Severin, Chemist, of Brussels.
Albert Libiez, Lawyer, of Mons.

For the same offence the following have been condemned to 15 *years' hard labour:—*

Hermann Capiau, Engineer, of Wasmes.
Ada Bodart, of Brussels.
Georges Derveau, Chemist, of Pâturages.
Marv de Croy, of Bellignies.

At the same sitting, the War Council condemned 17 others charged with treason against the Imperial Armies to sentences of penal servitude and imprisonment varying from two to eight years.

The sentences passed on Bancq and Edith Cavell have already been fully executed.

The Governor-General of Brussels brings these facts to the knowledge of the Public that they may serve as a warning.

The Governor of the City,
Brussels, 12*th October*, 1915. GENERAL VON BISSING.

THE "TREASON" OF EDITH CAVELL.

Treason means the opposite of Patriotism, but the German word "War-Treason" means loyalty to Patriotism at the risk of one's life. Acts of war-treason are acts done by the inhabitants of an occupied territory, on behalf of their native country and their fellow-countrymen, for which the German Military Code prescribes the penalty of death. Edith Cavell and her companions had done such acts and well knew what awaited them if they were discovered. It was in this that their heroism lay. But the German Government knew, on its part, that whatever it might lay down in its Military Code, the execution of Edith Cavell for what she had done was an outrage which would arouse the indignation of the civilised world. That is why, during the whole course of her trial and to within a few hours of putting her to death, the German authorities at Brussels kept the American Legation at arm's length by procrastinations, prevarications, and lies. When intervention was no longer possible, they hastened to proclaim their achievement to the population of Brussels; for, as the German Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Herr Zimmermann, explained to an American journalist, "the sentence "had been carried out to frighten those who might presume on their sex to take "part in enterprises punishable with death."

PROCLAMATION

Le Tribunal du Conseil de Guerre Impérial Allemand siègant à Bruxelles a prononcé les condamnations suivantes :

Sont condamnés à mort pour trahison en bande organisée :

Edith CAVELL, Institutrice à Bruxelles.

Philippe BANCQ, Architecte à Bruxelles.

Jeanne de BELLEVILLE, de Montignies.

Louise THUILIEZ, Professeur à Lille.

Louis SEVERIN, Pharmacien à Bruxelles.

Albert LIBIEZ, Avocat à Mons.

Pour le même motif, ont été condamnés à quinze ans de travaux forcés :

Hermann CAPIAU, Ingénieur à Wasmes. - Ada BODART, à Bruxelles. - Georges DERVEAU, Pharmacien à Pâturages. - Mary de CROY, à Bellignies.

Dans sa même séance, le Conseil de Guerre a prononcé contre dix-sept autres accusés de trahison envers les Armées Impériales, des condamnations de travaux forcés et de prison variant entre deux ans et huit ans.

En ce qui concerne BANCQ et Edith CAVELL, le jugement a déjà reçu pleine exécution.

Le Général Gouverneur de Bruxelles porte ces faits à la connaissance du public pour qu'ils servent d'avertissement.

Bruxelles le 12 Octobre 1915

Le Gouverneur de la Ville,

Général **VON BISSING**

PROCLAMATION OF THE GERMAN MILITARY COMMANDANT OF LILLE.

The attitude of England makes the provisioning of the population more and more difficult.

To reduce the misery, the German authorities have recently asked for volunteers to go and work in the country. This offer has not had the success that was expected.

In consequence of this the inhabitants will be deported by order and removed into the country. Persons deported will be sent to the interior of the occupied territory in France, far behind the front, where they will be employed in agricultural labour, and not in any military work whatever. By this measure they will be given the opportunity of providing better for their subsistence.

In case of necessity provisions can be obtained through the German depôts. Every person deported will be allowed to take with him 30 kilogrammes of luggage (household utensils, clothes, &c.), which they will be well advised to make ready at once.

I order, therefore, that no one may, until further order, change his place of residence. No one may absent himself from his legally declared residence from 9.0 p.m. to 6.0 a.m. (German time), unless he is in possession of a permit in due form.

Inasmuch as this is an irrevocable measure, it is in the interest of the population itself to remain calm and obedient.

THE COMMANDANT.

Lille, April, 1916.

THE DEPORTATIONS FROM LILLE.

This proclamation was followed up by the deportation of 25,000 *French civilians from the towns of Roubaix, Turcoing and Lille. There were girls as young as sixteen among the victims, and men as old as fifty-five. Families were ruthlessly broken up.*

The first batches were obtained by sporadic slave-raids in the streets and houses. Then the garrison of Lille was reinforced, and on April 22*nd*, 1916, (*Holy Saturday,*) *the first systematic deportation was carried out.* "*About* 3.0 " *in the morning, troops with fixed bayonets barred the streets, machine-guns* " *commanded the roads—against unarmed people. Soldiers made their way into* " *the houses, the officer pointed out the people who were to go, and half-an-hour* " *later everybody was marched pell-mell into an adjacent factory, and from there* " *to the station, whence the departure took place.*" *

Only a part of the exiles were employed on agriculture in the occupied territory. Others, contrary to the German promise and contrary to every recognised concept of justice, were compelled to do work of a military nature for the advantage of the German Army.

* *French Yellow Book: Memorandum of June* 30*th*, 1916, *by the Minister of War (based on documentary evidence).*

PROCLAMATION
du Commandant militaire Allemand
DE LILLE

L'attitude de l'Angleterre rend de plus en plus difficile le ravitaillement de la population.

Pour atténuer la misère, l'autorité allemande a demandé récemment des volontaires pour aller travailler à la campagne. Cette offre n'a pas eu le succès attendu.

En conséquence, les habitants seront évacués par ordre et transportés à la campagne. Les évacués seront envoyés à l'intérieur du territoire occupé de la France, loin derrière le front, où ils seront occupés dans l'agriculture et nullement à des travaux militaires.

Par cette mesure, l'occasion leur sera donnée de mieux pourvoir à leur subsistance.

En cas de nécessité, le ravitaillement pourra se faire par les dépôts allemands.

Chaque évacué pourra emporter avec lui 30 kilogrammes de bagages (ustensiles de ménage, vêtements, etc...) qu'on fera bien de préparer dès maintenant.

J'ordonne donc : Personne ne pourra, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, changer de domicile. Personne non plus s'absenter de son domicile légal déclaré, de 9 heures du soir à 6 heures du matin (heure allemande) pour tant qu'il ne soit pas en possession d'un permis en règle.

Comme il s'agit d'une mesure irrévocable, il est de l'intérêt de la population même de rester calme et obéissante.

Lille, avril 1916.

LE COMMANDANT.

NOTICE
(French Text).

All the inhabitants of the house, with the exception of children under 14, and their mothers, and also of old people, must prepare themselves for transportation in an hour-and-a-half's time.

An officer will definitely decide which persons will be taken to the concentration camps. For this purpose all the inhabitants of the house must assemble in front of it. In case of bad weather, they may remain in the passage. The door of the house must remain open. All appeals will be useless. No inmate of the house, even those who will not be transported, may leave the house before 8.0 a.m. (German time).

Each person will have a right to 30 kilogrammes of luggage; if anyone's luggage exceeds that weight, it will all be rejected without further consideration. Packages must be separately made up for each person and must bear an address legibly written and firmly fixed on. This address must include the surname and the Christian name, and the number of the identity card.

It is absolutely necessary that people should provide themselves in their own interest with eating and drinking utensils, as well as with a woollen blanket, strong shoes and linen. Everyone must carry his identity card on his person. Anyone attempting to evade transportation will be punished without mercy.

Lille, April, 1916.

ETAPPEN-KOMMANDANTUR.*

"AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF'S NOTICE."

In this proclamation the German transport officer at Lille puts the Commandant's decree into effect. He allows the exiles an hour-and-a-half to settle their affairs and leave their homes for an unknown destination. "Anyone attempting to evade deportation will be punished without pity."

"It was terrible," writes a witness.† "The officer went round, pointing out the men and women whom he chose and giving them, to make their preparations, a period varying from an hour to ten minutes . . . .

"They left Madame X. the choice between her two servants. She chose the elder one. 'Good,' they answered, 'that is the one we will take.' . . . .

"Madame D. took the place of her maid, who was ill. When she was sent back she wanted to stay. They threatened to send her back forcibly. . . . .

"The concentration camps looked like slave markets."

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* The "Etappen" are the German military depôts on the lines of communication.

† *French Yellow Book, Ann.* 13.

AVIS

(Texte français)

Tous les habitants de la maison, à l'exception des enfants au-dessous de 14 ans et de leurs mères, ainsi qu'à l'exception des vieillards, doivent se préparer pour être transportés dans une heure et demie.

Un officier décidera définitivement quelles personnes seront conduites dans les camps de réunion. Dans ce but, tous les habitants de la maison doivent se réunir devant leur habitation : en cas de mauvais temps, il est permis de rester dans le couloir. La porte de la maison devra rester ouverte. Toute réclamation sera inutile. Aucun habitant de la maison, même ceux qui ne seront pas transportés, ne pourra quitter la maison avant 8 heures du matin (heure allemande).

Chaque personne aura droit à 30 kilogrammes de bagages; s'il y aura un excédent de poids, tous les bagages de cette personne seront refusés sans égards. Les colis devront être faits séparément pour chaque personne et munis d'une adresse lisiblement écrite et solidement fixée. L'adresse devra porter le nom, le prénom et le numéro de la carte d identité.

Il est tout à fait nécessaire de se munir dans son propre intérêt d'ustensiles pour boire et manger, ainsi que d'une couverture de laine, de bonnes chaussures et de linge. Chaque personne devra porter sur elle sa carte d'identite. Quiconque essaiera de se soustraire au transport sera impitoyablement puni.

ETAPPEN-KOMMANDANTUR.

Lille, Avril 1916.

INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF LILLE!

In refusing to execute military work imposed by the enemy, you are within your rights and doing your duty as Frenchmen. The Hague Convention, ratified by all civilised nations, justifies your action. The disloyal citizens who accept work of military value, direct or indirect, will commit a serious crime against their country. They will, moreover, expose themselves to the rigour of the law when the French Flag waves again over Lille.

That time is not far off!

The strength of the Allies increases steadily. That of Germany, on the contrary, is becoming exhausted as the time passes. It will very soon not be equal to the task.

Everything bids you hope.

Courage and confidence through all!

THE SPIRIT OF FRANCE.

This proclamation is a noble answer to the last. It was scattered in Lille in defiance of the German authorities, and breathes the spirit that Germany can never conquer.

"Our people," writes an inhabitant of Lille, "preserved their calm and their dignity admirably. They all started off with cries of 'Vive la France!'—'Vive la Liberté!'—and singing the Marseillaise. They comforted those who were left behind, their poor weeping mothers and the children. Pale with grief and choked with tears, they forbade them to weep. They did not weep themselves . . . ."*

"Our soldiers at the front must not avenge us by similar acts; that would sully the fair name of France. Let them leave it to God to avenge such crimes . . . ."

* *French Yellow Book, Ann. 13.*

Habitants de la région de Lille!

En refusant d'exécuter des travaux militaires imposés par l'ennemi, vous êtes dans votre droit et vous accomplissez votre devoir de Francais, — La Convention de La Haye, ratifiée par toutes les nations civilisées, vous donne raison.

Les mauvais citoyens qui accepteraient des travaux d'un intérêt militaire immédiat ou lointain se rendraient gravement coupables envers la Patrie. — Ils s'exposeraient, en outre, à la rigueur des lois, lorsque le drapeau français flottera de nouveau sur Lille.

Ce moment n'est pas éloigné.

Les forces des Alliés croissent sans cesse. Celles de l'Allemagne s'épuisent au contraire avec le temps : elles ne suffiront bientôt plus à la tâche.

Tout vous dit d'espérer.

Courage et confiance toujours.

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